Miss Olinda A. Austin
Enroute to Sitka, Alaska
1880 – March 1st.

San Francisco.
March 1st 1880.

Dear Mrs. Haines:—

I have been quite unwell since I reached California, I suppose it is owing to the change of climate. I feel a great deal better today, however. We sail for Victoria to-day on the steamer, City of Chester. The steamer, California, bound for Sitka has met with an accident, so we will be detained for a week or more in Victoria, while they are making the necessary repairs. I am so sorry for it seems as if I could hardly wait to reach Sitka, and commence my school. I did not receive the bill for the Kinder-garten material, till the day I left New York and then, some one packed it away so that I could not get it till I reached California. I was perfectly delighted with Miss. Coe and took several lessons of her. I like her system, the American, much better than the German. I spent over ten dollars for the material but I paid for it.

myself and was very glad to do so as I want-
ed to do something for the school; I she rea-
son I spoke of this was because they
have not separated my bill from the other
and I thought you might think I had
charged the amount to the Board. The
bill was also made out in my name, and
as I did not notice the mistake till
after I started, I was obliged to let it
remain as it was, although I had told
Miss Coe to make it out to the Board.

Victoria, B. C.
March 9th 1880.

Dear Mrs. Haines:—

I did not have time
to finish my letter in California, so I was
obliged to wait till I reached Victoria.
We had a very rough voyage from Californ
and nearly every one on board was very ill.
I did not leave my state-room 'till the last
day. I can assure you we were all very glad

to reach dry land. She was another family besides our bound for Sitka. a Mrs. Mrs. Symond's and her two little boys her husband is lieutenant on board the Jamestown, the war vessel in Sitka harbor. At Victoria we heard that a Mr. + Mrs. Lewis were also going to Sitka and as they are all very nice people indeed, I think our society will be very pleasant. Victoria is a very pretty place and they say the climate is similar to that of Sitka, and if that is the case it must be a very delightful place indeed. There are a great many Indians here and some of them are very neat indeed, while others are very dirty and ragged but they all seem to have very pleasant faces and I know I shall like to work with them very much indeed. I heard that the Victoria papers started that the California would start for Sitka the 12th of this month. I do so hope it will, for I am very impatient

at the delay. Remember me to all the ladies, with much love.

Yours lovingly,—

Linda Austin

Miss Linda Austin
with Bill —
Attica March/80 —
and 4-12/80 —

Miss Olinda A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1880 - April 28

Please return promptly
to Mrs. F. E. H. Haines -

Miss Austin -
and 6.15/80 -

Sitka, Alaska.
April 28th 1880.

Dear Mrs. Haines:

I in my last letter I spoke of a plan which I thought if successful would make our sewing school self supporting. I have commenced it, and trust it will work very nicely as soon as it gets well started. I knew it would not be well to give the children calico, without letting them help to pay for it, in some way, so last Tuesday I gave notice that we would begin our sewing school the following Friday, but that no one could have have a dress unless they gave something in return. on the day appointed quite a number of the children brought baskets, mats etc. and in that way helped pay for their dresses. I want them to feel that they are able to help earn their clothes, instead of being obliged to depend entirely on others. I also thought if I had a little money, I would buy some skin for moccasins, and also material for weaving

baskets, and get one of the Indian women, who does all such kind of work beautifully, to teach the children how to make them. if we are only able to make this plan successful, and you are willing, I will send the articles on to New York, and if you think it best you can sell them, and that will help pay for the calico etc, at the same time teach the children to be industrious. I am going to introduce Kindergarten more fully as soon as I can procure tables; the children seem very much pleased with what I have already shown them about it, and as soon as I am able to procure the boards for them, which will not cost over forty dollars including the making, a much greater progress can be made; our work at present is greatly impeded, for want of material. I feel greatly encouraged however in my work, in many respects; the people in Sitka say the Indians have improved a good deal, in regard

to neatness since the school commenced, and then it still continues to increase in numbers, just to show you the increase since last Monday (week) I will write the attendence up to today.

Mon. 41	Mon 72
Tues. 56	Tues 80
Wed. 67	Wed 92
Thurs. 70	Thurs 135
Fri. 95	Fri. 150

The children are picking up our language very rapidly indeed. They are learning the Lord's Prayer, and several songs to sing for their pastor when he arrives.

I am teaching Dick how to sing as well as to read and write, he is the chief of the Sitka Indians, and very fond of music. I think he tries very hard to be good and do what is right; the other evening while I was teaching him one of his favorite songs, he said in a very abrupt manner, "I do not drink Hootchenoo very often now

but will you write me a prayer to say when I am tempted to drink it?" I am going to start a singing school Saturday nights, so that the Indians can practise the hymns to be sung the next day at church. I am going to write a short letter to Mr. Kendall, also to the friends of my church and to Mrs. Howard. With much love to all the kind friends of our Mission Board, I close hoping you will pray God to bless the work he has given me to do

Yours lovingly.

Linda A. Austin.

Miss Olinda A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1880 – June 2.

Miss O. A. Austin
ans)

Sitka, Alaska.
June 2nd 1880.

Dear Mrs. Haines:—

The school though not as large as formerly is still progressing very rapidly; this falling off is owing to the Indians going away for the summer to fish and hunt and also to a report which has been circulated among them that their children are to be sent to Portland as pupils for the Government School to be established near there. The parents are very much opposed to this as they seem to be very fond of their children and do not want them to leave Sitka. I assured them they need not go unless they wished it, and I think they will soon get over their fears when they see that they are not compelled to go. We are very desirous of obtaining the Government hospital building for our use as it would do nicely, with very little repairing for our church, school and Home; as it is a very large building. At present we can have

it rent free. but if a government should be established here which is almost a certainty it would probably be used by them unless we obtain the first promise of buying it. I have been told that they would undoubtly sell it to us very reasonably were we to apply for it now. Cannot something be done right away toward securing it? There is also ground enough for quite a vegetable garden. this would also be a great advantage if a home ~~well started. We are in great need~~ of furniture and as we intend to have the church and school in ~~the same~~ one room the same will answer for both purposes; it could be made here with much less expense than to have it sent from New York as in that case the freight would be so expensive. We are also in great need ~~need~~ of clothing the children have very little except their blankets. Calico, unbleached muslin, cheap grey flannel, and material used for overalls would

be very acceptable indeed. We have been obliged to close the sewing school for want of material. You would be surprised to see how rapidly the children are learning. I have a large class who read very well ~~and sew~~ from the blackboard and are very anxious to have books I do hope we will be able to get them before long. One of the Indian men named Jack Simeon although understanding English very well could not read a word of it when the school was first opened; ~~it is now reading~~ the in the First Reader. Mrs. Lyons comes in the school in the afternoon and has a class of boys and girls she says it seem as if she could see a greater improvement in them every day. The season has been very backward and we have not been able to plant our garden yet; we have boxes of flowers however in all the school windows and it is a great improvement to the room which has very little in it besides benches. I send you by this mail some Indian articles which were given

may bless and prosper this great work. With much love I remain very truly L. A. Austin

Please return soon to F. E. H. Haines

by the children to help pay for their clothing I received your letter and will write to Miss Brown this mail. Mr. Lyons has been quite sick for the past few days but he seems a little better today I trust it is nothing serious I think he has overworked himself. Every one in Sitka like Mr. Lyon's and his wife very much indeed. Capt. Beardslee's wife has sent for combs, soap and towels for my Indian school to help keep the children clean she has taken a great interest in the children and I am greatly indebted to both the Captain and his wife for many kindnesses in my missionary work. We have been holding school in the guard house but intend to move into the Hospital building by the first of next week as we will have more room and can have a wash room and a sewing room for the children. Remember me with much love to all the ladies. and pray God that he

Miss Linda A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska

Miss Linda A. Austin
Children's nanny

Dear Miss Haines:—

I send you a few of the tests written by the school boys. Also some of the childrens Indian & English names I will find out and write you what they mean and incidents connected with them by next mail. I have now over two hundred scholars in the school so you see I am kept pretty busy. They are doing very well & sing beautifully. Capt. Glass and others come in very often to see & hear them sing. They are very fond of company & always do their very best. Some of the white people are anxious to have me give a school exhibition & I shall before long.

English name	Indian	Age	
May	Eshkeykah	4	very pretty
Florence	Astoeklah	7	beautiful
Lulu	Sekaydow	13	very smart
Eugene	Honerwark'	8	very bright
Frank	Takesharkeesh	10	very quick

I shall write to Lyr. Kendall next mail.
Remember me to all the ladies and friends
With much love,
I remain,
Very truly,
Linda Austin

If you could send us $60. it would be a great help in fitting up the school we are obliged to use two rooms + we need a stove, desks, copy books, pen ink and many other things besides books, slates etc. They can all be procured better here than to be sent from N.Y. If Mrs Boyd has not already sent the money for the mats etc. I wish you would buy as much gingham as possible with it + send it by mail in two or three packages.

to the grown people, and also to the children, in teaching them to keep their homes looking neater, and other industries which I could not undertake alone. I know of no one better as a help than my sister, who has taken a great interest in the work, and has taught among just such kind of people in New York, for some time before she left for Sitka. She also plays and sings very nicely, and this would be a great advantage, as the Indians will come a

Please return
to Mrs. F. E. H. Haines
Miss Olinda A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1880 – August, 11.

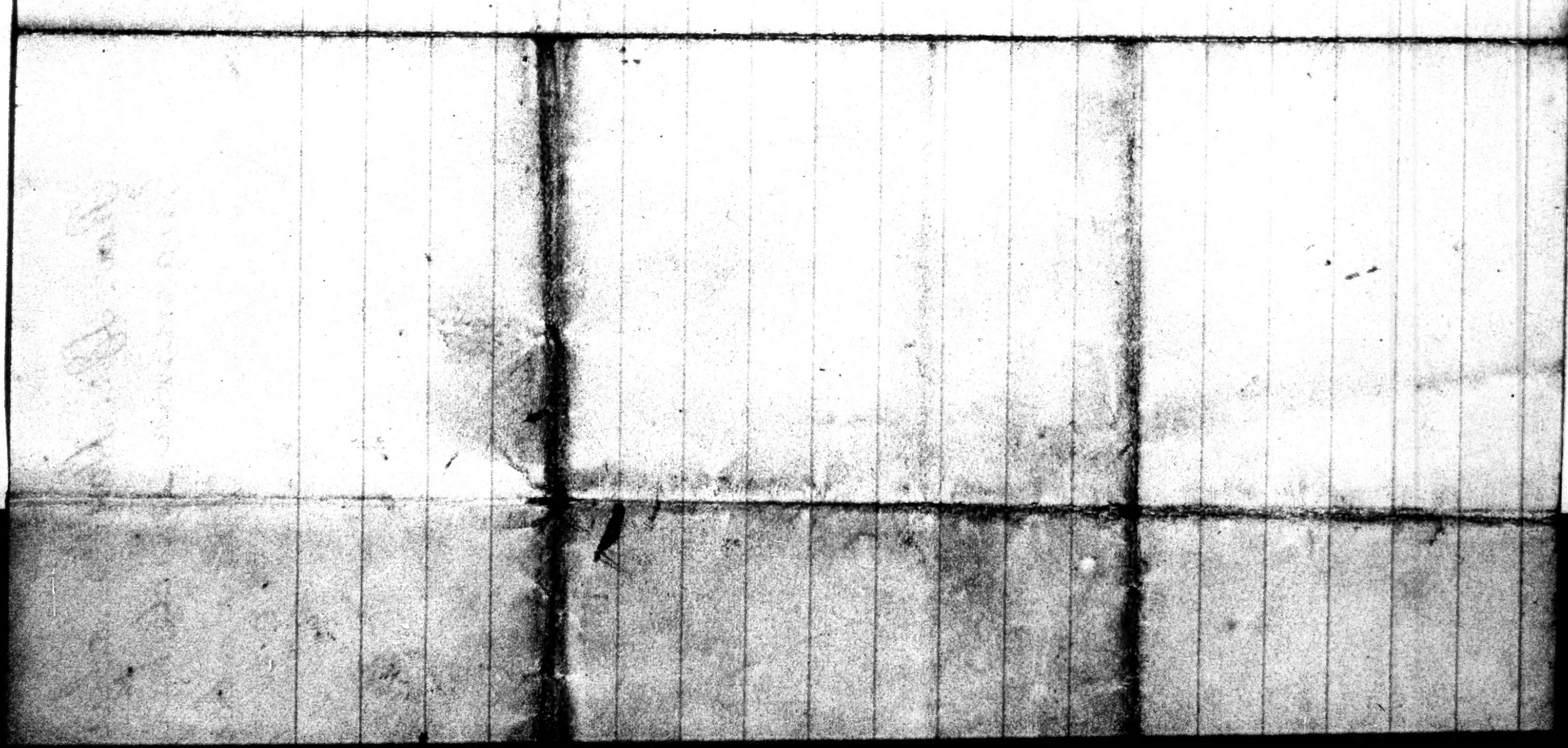
Miss Austin –
Sitka
about help needed –
Sitka, Aug. 11th 1/80
& Indian boy –

Dear Mrs Haines; –

I am so much interested in my school that I have not closed it during the vacation but have held one session each day. Of course most of the Indians are away but those who do come, are learning so rapidly that I feel doubly repaid for doing so. Since I last wrote you, we have taken a little Indian boy to bring up, he is about eight years old, and is one of the brightest little fellows I ever saw; his father is dead, and his mother has deserted him, and gone to Hoona

He used to sleep under an old broken down house, and had nothing to eat, except what was thrown out to him, by some people who felt sorry for him. There are many just such cases here. You know we gave the children English names, when we opened the school. as it was impossible to get their Indian ones, but we thought perhaps he would like his own the best. as he was going to live with us; but he was quite indignant when the subject was broached. He wanted to be a white boy, and have an American name. The sewing

school has been reopened, owing to the kindness of Mrs. Beardslee, and others who have taken an interest in this work, and is quite a success. Each child is trying to make a patchwork quilt for Christmas, and most of them sew beautifully. At present dear Mrs Haines I do not need an assistant because so many are away, but in September and October they begin to come back, and then I expect to have a great many. I should like to have help very much by that time, as I am very anxious to devote more time than I otherwise could to



great way to hear music!
O! I am so anxious for
the Fall to come, for I
feel we shall have great
success with these poor
people this winter, and
I pray God we may
do a great deal of good
through this instrumen-
tality. I have reckoned
up the cost of sending
the curiosities on to New
York, and papa and
I both think that it
will pay well, if they
can be sold when the
reach the City; you see
they can be sent by mail
for sixteen cents per pound,
and it would take at least

two ~~three~~ of three or four
baskets to weigh a pound,
and they ~~weigh~~ are much
heavier than the mats
or moccassins. Forty
dollars will ~~buy~~ boards
enough to make three
or four tables, and two
or three ~~tables~~ benches
which will be very useful
this winter. Cannot some-
thing be done toward se-
curing books and slates,
as we are in great need
of them? The flower
seeds are growing beauti-
fully. Will you please
thank Mrs. Boyd for
her kind letter, and tell
her I will answer it next
mail and send one also
to the superintendent of

Rev. L. Dr. Hall's church.
Mamma sends her love.
Very affectionately
Linda Austin

Miss O. A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1880, Oct. 17

Miss O. A. Austin —
Mrs. Mattison —
Sitka, [illegible] 17th 1880.
will pay 1/4 salary
object

Dear Mrs. Haines —

Mrs Mattison, one of the leading ladies in my church, wrote me that their missionary society were very much interested in the work, and anxious to raise the whole of my salary. they are very much in debt just at present; but have assumed one quarters payment, and will give the rest as soon as they are able. They were greatly amused at my naming so many children at once, as it often took a long time to find a name good enough for one. Miss Dora Cannon sent me a lot of patchwork by mail,

and wanted to know what the children most needed, as the society to which they belonged were anxious to work for my school. Mrs Swift wrote me the boys of the Alaska Club, had sent money for buying books, maps etc. I am so glad, as we are so much in need of all such things. I shall write a long letter to them. A good many of the Indians are still away, hunting and fishing as the salmon season is not entirely over. They will probably all be back by the middle of this month. One of the boys, called Arthur, has nearly finished the First Reader, he is about fourteen years old, and one of the brightest boys I have

ever met. She helps all the children in getting their lessons. The girls in the sewing school are doing splendidly, and I find I cannot teach even the little ones very much about it. they are working on quilts. I wish we had material to make them good substantial clothing. We are looking forward, with a great deal of pleasure to the Christmas treat for the children and grown people. One of the ladies here has promised a present to every child who comes regularly to school from now till December.

Remember me with much love to the ladies.

Very truly yours,

Minnie Austin.

deal of love for yourself
& the Ladies,

I remain

Very sincerely

Your's Austen

Miss Olinda A Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1881-Oct 19.

Miss. O. A. Austin

Sitka.
October 19th 1881

Dear Mrs. Haines. — This steamer brought no letter from you to my disappointment. We are busily preparing for Christmas & the children are as eager as the rest of us. Captain Glass returned this time & such rejoicing & never witnessed before. The Home boys were in bed when the gun fired but rushed out with not waiting to dress & it was as much as I could do to keep them quiet. The Indians all love him & he will be warmly

welcomed by us all. The steamer leaves very soon so I have very little time to write you. I will send you a list of some things useful for Christmas as some of our friends may write to you as it takes so long for any letters to reach them. In fact I fear almost they will not in time enough for Christmas.

Wristlets
Mittens
Scarfs
Soap
Stockings
Underclothing
Shoes
Skates

If the friends have any

pairs of old skates they would be very acceptable as the boys are very fond of this out door exercise. We are all pretty well. Dr. Jackson & Hope will come out to Sitka next year as it does a great deal of good both to the missionaries as well as the Indians & we are going to try to have him bring you too. Will you not come dear Mrs. Haines & think it would do you good & we should love to have you so much. Mamma sends love. Hoping to hear from you next month and with a great

I find the room all swept clean, the fire lighted, the stove blacked and every thing in order. If it has been snowing a path is cleaned from the ~~fa~~ gate to the school-room door. they are very thoughtful indeed and I am very much interested in them The change seems to delight them very much and I do not wonder for the ranche is very

Please return soon
to Mrs. F. E. H. Haines
23 Centro St. New York
City

Mrs C. A. Austin
Sitka
1880, December 23

Sitka Dec 23, 1880

Dear Mrs. Haines:

The Indians are all looking forward to the holidays with a good deal of anticipation. So many of them have come to me and said. "How many moons be Christmas?" They are learning English very rapidly. of course it is somewhat broken but can be easily understood. We are going to try to make this Christmas one to be remembered by the school

children at least and for as many of the older ones as possible. Our object is to give each child some article of clothing. Rewards were also offered in October to every one who came commencing from that time to December. Two of the boys Arthur and Archie ~~have~~ are to received them; they have not missed a day even in the severest weather and we have had some very stormy days. About three weeks ago some of the older boys came to me

and wanted to know if they might have one of the rooms in the school-house to fit up for themselves, as they did not want to live in the ranche any longer. I told them they might and they set to work in dead earnest. There are eight boys in all Arthur, Philip, Archie, Harry, Luke, Walter John and Tom. Philip who is quite a carpenter made beds and a table When I come to school in the morning I find

dirty. The snow is very deep but it does not seem to keep the children from attending. They are very poorly clad very few having shoes and the building is some distance from the ranche. I shall tell you all about our Christmas festival next mail. With much love to all the friends and wishing you a

Merry Christmas and &c
Happy New Year
I remain,
Very truly
L. Austin.

so glad to have them, for then I could devote much more of my time to the older ones and to visiting the ranche which nauseates Mr. Lyons so much that he cannot go there. He and his wife are very delicate indeed. I feel a great deal more good could be done if I could only go there more. I send you a list of names. I will also write to Mr. Tinley but fear I will not have time this steamer. I have one scholar

~~Please return soon to Mrs. F. E. H. Haines~~

Miss Olinda A. Austin
Sitka, Alaska,
1880 - Nov. 21,

Miss Austin —
names of Scholars —

Sitka, Nov. 21st 1/80.

Dear Mrs. Haines: —

I have had many letters from people in different parts of the country with many kind offers of assistance (I can assure you I feel greatly encouraged and I trust a great deal of good may be accomplished this winter. I have over ninety in my school some days and the children are learning very fast. Some of the youngest read beautifully ~~they~~ some of them are

not over seven years of age) if they are that. I sent quite a number of articles on to Mrs. Cameron but I have not heard any thing as yet regarding them. If I only had a little money I could often buy curios which would bring three time as much as they cost in N.Y. The Indian doll is carved from one solid piece of bone the little children play with them but they are very scarce I have never seen but three of them. (One of the Indians a lame man is making wooden frogs which are very natural indeed

no one else in the ranche will make them as they are afraid of becoming lame also. They cost $2.00 but they are really worth much more. I have not a doubt but that the Indians would be perfectly willing to exchange their baskets etc. for clothing (I will find out and write you about it.) I think my sister fully qualified in every way to be my assistant as she has had as much practise ~~as~~ in teaching as I have and is very anxious to work among the Indians. I should be